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PAGE 01 COPENH 04514 071709Z

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SUBJECT: BAHRAIN'S FOREIGN MINISTER AL KHALIFAH VISITS DENMARK

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 3

SUMMARY: DURING THE NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 3 OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF BAHRAIN TO DENMARK DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. ASIDE FROM CEREMONIAL ASPECTS AND A VISIT TO A MAJOR DANISH SHIPYARD, MOST TIME WAS SPENT IN PREPARING A DEPARTURE PRESS RELEASE WHICH TOUCHED UPON THEMIDDLE EAST, THE EURO-ARAB/DIALOGUE AND THE STRENGTHENING OF DANISH-BAHRAINI RELATIONS. THE DANES ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW SECTION IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO DEAL WITH NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES AND CONDUCT DANISH RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB OIL-PRODUCING STATES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF BAHRAIN, SHAIKH MOHAMMAD BIN MUBARAK AL KHALIFAH PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO DENMARK NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 3 RESPONDING TO AN INVITATION FROM HIS DANISH COLLEAGUE, K.B. ANDERSEN. THE INVITATION HAD BEEN EXTENDED DURING ANDERSEN'S VISIT TO BAHRAIN IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAY OF LAST YEAR. DANISH RELATIONS WITH BAHRAIN HAVE,

HOWEVER, BEEN RELATIVELY CLOSE SINCE THE EARLY FIFTIES, WHEN A DANISH ARCHEOLOGICAL TEAM EXCAVATED EARLY BAHRAIN CULTURES.

- 2. SHAIKH AL KHALIFAH WAS RECEIVED BY THE QUEEN AND BY PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN, AND HE HAD TALKS WITH HIS HOST, K.B. ANDERSEN, AND WITH THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, IVAR NORGAARD. BEFORE DEPARTING FOR LONDON, SHAIKH AL KHALIFAH VISIED THE LINDO SHIPYARDS, MAJOR PRODUCER OF OIL-DRILLING EQUIPMENT AND SUPER-TANKERS IN THE 3-4000,000-TON CLASS.
- 3. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS, TALKS WITH AL KHALIFAH CENTERED ON BILATERALECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ISSUES, NOTABLY OIL, BUT THAT CONSIDERING BAHRAIN'S NON-MEMBERSHIP IN OPEC, THE ANNOUNCED OIL PRICE INCREASE WAS NOT TOUCHED UPON. ONE PAPER, HOWEVER, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONS DISCUSSIONS ON THEDANISH BID TO BUILD A PROJECTED CAUSEWAY CONNECTING BAHRAIN WITH THE MAINLAND. THE DANISH BID WAS MADE BY A CONSORTIUM OF CONSTRUCTION FIRMS WHICH INCLUDES, AMONG OTHERS, THE WORLDWIDE COMPANY, CHRISTIANI & NIELSEN.
- 4. THE TWO PARTIES DISCUSSED THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE UNITED NATIONS. NOR SURPRIS-INGLY. IN THESE AREAS THE PARTIES FOUND/IT SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT TO EXPRESS IDENTICAL VIEW. IN FACT, THE DANES HAD NOT INTENDED TO PUBLISH A COMMUNIQUE AND IT WAS ONLY UNDER PRESURE FROM THE SHAIKH THAT THEY AGREED TO ISSUE A JOINT PRESS RELEASE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT. THE PARAGRAPH RELATING TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND THEPALESTINE QUESTION APPARENTLY CAUSED PARTICULAR DIFFICULTIES. BUT FINALLY AN INNOCUOUS TEXT WAS AGREED UPON. IT MERELY STATES THAT THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED THIS POINT AND "EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR A PEACEFUL AND JUST SOLUTION". NEVERTHELESS, THE DANES WERE APPARENTLY CONCERNED EVEN ABOUT THIS TEXT AND AMBASSADOR DEAN WAS TOLD BY FOREIGNMINISTER ANDERSEN THAT ANDERSEN HIMSELF HAD TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO SHOW THE TEXT TO THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN ADVANCE OF FINAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 COPENH 04514 071709Z

AGREEMENT. REPORTEDLY, THE ISRAELI VOICED NO OBJECTION.

5. THE PRESS RELEASE ALSO MENTIONED THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, WHICH THE MINISTERS SAW AS HAVING POSITIVE EFFECTS. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR SATIFSFACTION WITH THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE DIALOGUE AND AGREED THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO REGIONS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED THROUGH A

COMPREHENSIVE COOPERATION.

6. IN THE COURSE OF THE VISIT IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WILL ESTABLISH A CONSULAR AGENT IN BAHRAIN AND THAT BAHRAIN'S AMBASSADOR IN LONDON WILL BE ACCREDITED TO DENMARK. FURTHERMORE, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE DANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INTENDS TO ESTABLISH A NEW SECTION TO DEAL WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THE SO-CALLED NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, INCLUDING CONTACT WITH THE ARAB OIL COUNTRIES.

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